



# ***In Case of Emergency...***

Monthly Newsletter of the Utah Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security

Volume II, Number 7

July, 2002

## **UTAH WILDFIRE**

It began with sparks from a broken vehicle axle coming into contact with a metal cattle guard, and eventually erupted into one of the largest and most potentially dangerous wildfires of Utah's still-young 2002 fire season.

Named for the forested ridge where it was born, the "Mustang" fire, near Flaming Gorge in Daggett County, destroyed more than 20,000 acres in some of the state's most prized backcountry. In the process, it threatened the resort town of Dutch John and caused the evacuation of residents, campers and visitors. About 200 people were evacuated and reports indicated the fire possessed a threat to more than 129 structures in town, including a school. A determined defensive suppression effort saved the town and structures. Blackened earth circling the town on all sides testifies to the battle that was played out there.

FEMA approved a fire management assistance declaration July 1 after state officials asked for help to cover the costs associated with fighting the fire. FEMA's Fire Management Assistance declarations help provide resources for suppressing fires by paying 75 percent of eligible state and local costs associated with the firefight.

By the time the Incident Commander announced 100 percent containment July 9, hundreds of fire fighters, law enforcement personnel and volunteers had labored in to keep the flames from exacting an even greater toll. The Red Cross opened and operated a shelter in the town of Manila and assisted other evacuees at Flaming Gorge Resort and in the city of Vernal. The agency and its volunteers dispensed food, offered counseling and other needed services.

Shirley and Winston Slaugh, the Emergency Services Directors for Daggett County, put in long hours during the duration of the emergency, facilitating evacuation efforts, insuring communications between victims and officials, and directing support activities.

As of July 10, incomplete suppression costs for the "Mustang" fire are estimated at \$2,518,000, in addition to the 12 miles of power lines and other community infrastructure that have been destroyed.

Our THANKS go out to all those whose cooperative efforts saved lives and property at Dutch John. Larger in importance than the statistics of acres burned and stages of containment hard-won is the silent score-card which tells us of lives not lost, houses not burned, jobs not lost and tears not shed. And that is why we plan and train.



*Contributed by Al Cooper*

## **CSEPP CONFERENCE**

This years National Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) Conference was held in Lexington, Kentucky June 25 thru 27. The theme was "Racing Toward Community Preparedness".

Tuesday was spent in functional meetings where working groups tackled issues critical to the success of CSEPP. There was a working group for Exercise and Training, Planning and Integration, Public Outreach, Medical, and a work session for State Directors. Each working group provided a summary of topics discussed in the final open session on Thursday.

Wednesday and Thursday were spent in general session and various breakout sessions.

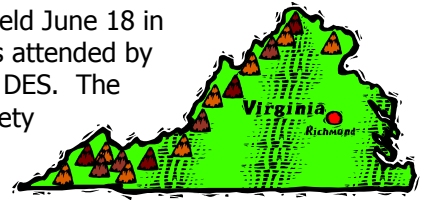
Break out sessions covered a variety of subjects including Financial Performance Reports, Enhancement of Exercise and Training Programs, Special Needs Population Planning, Medical Issues for Locals, Sheltering in Place, Ways to Enhance a Communities Public Outreach Program and Acute Exposure Guideline Levels. Two special sessions were conducted on Preparedness Lessons Learned from the 2002 Winter Olympics and the Urban Search and Rescue efforts at the World Trade Center.

*Contributed by Rick Williams*

## **FEDERAL GRANTS FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE PROGRAMS CONFERENCE**

This conference was held June 18 in Arlington, Virginia and was attended by the famous Kris Hamlet of DES. The conference featured a variety of speakers discussing the availability of upcoming grants related to the Homeland Defense initiatives. It also touched on the effort made to convert all federal grants into E-Grants, which are completed on-line.

If you are interested in more details of the conference, please contact Kris at [khamlet@utah.gov](mailto:khamlet@utah.gov)



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Upcoming dates to look for:

HMIM-Aug. 12-17

Recovery from Disaster workshop-Aug. 21

Contact DES Training for more information: 801.538.3400

## MARY ANN RUTISHAUSER HONORED

Tooele County Emergency Management emergency planner Marianne Rutishauser was recognized for her efforts on a national work group at the CSEPP National Conference.

For the last two years Rutishauser has chaired the Shelter-In-Place work group, made up of experts in the field.

Guidelines have been written by the work group to help emergency managers in communities around the eight chemical stockpiles know when to begin and end a shelter-in-place protective action.

"I know Marianne has worked hard and made this project a priority. She is very deserving of this recognition," said Kari Sagers, Director of Tooele County Emergency Management.

"The project was a tremendous challenge, but very exciting and personally rewarding," Rutishauser said. Rutishauser has been at Tooele County Emergency Management for 11 1/2 years. Her work includes writing the Tooele County Emergency Operations Plan, which has been applauded by FEMA as one of the most comprehensive and professional All-Hazard Emergency Operations Plans seen in the last 25 years.

We would like to congratulate Mary Ann for this award.



## UHP HAZMAT TEAM

The Utah Highway Patrol Hazmat Team has recently gone through a few changes. Due to manpower shortages and budget issues, three programs, Motor Carrier, Safety Inspection and Hazmat Team were reorganized and combined. This resulted in the reassignment of the full time crew back to the motor carrier section.

Before, there were seven full-time Hazmat troopers and ten extended team troopers for response. There are now a total of 15 troopers assigned statewide who are Hazmat technicians, with Mark Millett and Tim Trujillo still assigned full-time to DES.

In essence there is no distinction between the full time and extended team. They are still Hazmat technicians fully capable to respond to any emergency within the state. The primary difference will be in the management of team assets, which are still being worked out. Regional Hazmat teams comprised of city, county, private and other response personnel are in development, the first team being in southwestern Utah.

Team members will still be providing training and attending Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meetings. HMI planning and training consists of Operations, Awareness, Terrorism, Incident Command and Technician. For more information, contact DES at 801.538.3400



## FEDERAL PROGRAMS STRENGTHENING LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Recognizing the need for a higher level of bioterrorism preparedness at state and local levels, two federal agencies have announced grant programs designed to bolster the readiness of Utah's medical community.

The first program originates with and will be administered by the Center for Disease Control and will provide \$10 million for personnel, training and resources with an emphasis on local public health planning. Dr. Richard Melton, deputy director of the Utah Department of Health has been designated as the senior public health official for this program.

The second project comes from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and will be aimed at state hospitals and clinics, fostering the kind of education, equipment and supplies required to respond to a bioterror attack. This grant will bring approximately \$1.1 million to Utah and will be administered by the EMS Bureau of UDOH, according to UDOH HRSA grant program manager Lloyd Baker.

Underlying the implementation of these two programs is a commitment to the concept of integration of health departments working with local emergency managers and response disciplines in formulating plans and strategies. Brian Garrett, director of Bioterrorism Planning and Response for UDOH sees Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) and emergency managers as the focal point of planning efforts in Utah's communities. One of the challenges will be to bring medical professionals into an arena from which they have been largely removed in the past.

Scott Behunin, director of the Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security is enthusiastic about the program, and will be an active participant on the board that will direct the effort.



## THE FIRST DES TRIVIA QUIZ GAME

**In an effort to keep you thinking and to have a chance to score some free stuff, we have come up with a trivia quiz. It's simple: just answer the questions correctly, email your answers to [bspratt@utah.gov](mailto:bspratt@utah.gov) and wait for the free stuff. There are a few guidelines to be aware of:**

**#1 the editor and any of the DES management have the final say on any entry. #2 entries must be received no later than the week following the publishing of the current issue. #3 the correct answers will be printed in the next issue. #4 this is for fun.**

**The reader who answers the most questions correctly in the quickest time will win the prize. Here we go:**

- 1. How long has DeeEll Fifield worked for DES?**
- 2. How tall is DES director Scott Behunin?**
- 3. Who is the commander of DES Homeland security?**
- 4. How many issues of this newsletter have been published under the name "In Case of Emergency?"**
- 5. In "The Muppet Show", what are the names of the two old hecklers in the balcony?**

When was the last time you refined your family disaster plan? Does your family have a plan? No? There is no better time than now.

## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS FEATURE

The Division of Emergency Services and Homeland security would like to extend an invitation for you to become a contributing editor.

We have removed the section involving excerpts from "The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook" due to popular demand. This allows us to feature articles and stories from those in the community: **you**. If you would like to be a contributing editor, please contact us at 801.538.3392 or you might just be picked at random to submit ideas, thoughts, jumbled words or phrases.

## HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY SYSTEM

The Homeland Security Advisory System provides a comprehensive and effective means to distribute information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to federal, state, and local authorities and to the American people. It provides warnings in the form of a set of graduated "Threat Conditions." At each Threat Condition, public safety agencies implement a corresponding set of protective measures to further reduce vulnerability or increase response capability during a period of heightened alert.

### Utah Homeland Security—

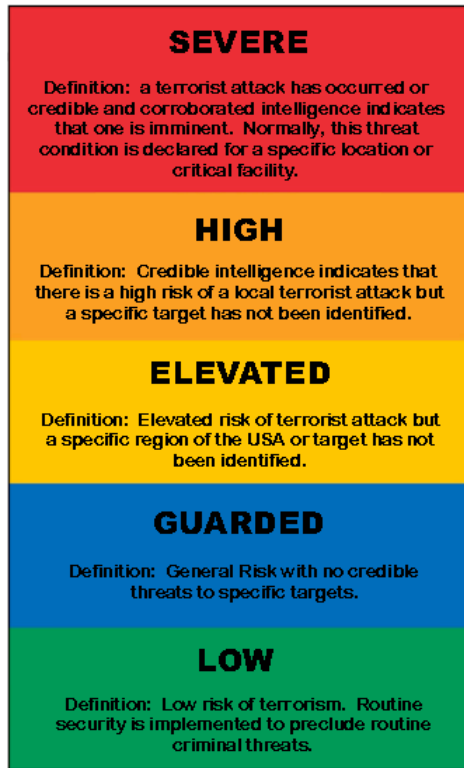
### What You Can Do To Help Safeguard Your Community

Be Alert! Promptly report criminal or suspicious activities to your local law enforcement agency.

Please report these activities immediately:

- Unauthorized persons loitering around public buildings, dams and reservoirs, electrical substations, water treatment or storage facilities, fire hydrants, schools, community centers, natural gas or petroleum transmission lines, small public airports or other critical facilities.
- People taking inappropriate photographs of active security measures employed at these sites.
- Persons without authorized credentials who ask detailed questions about critical facilities or the security employed there.
- Employees, pilots or public officials who appear to be under the control of other persons (kidnapping or hostage situation).
- Suspicious vehicles parked at or near critical facilities.

**MOST IMPORTANT:** If you see something dangerous or if you become suspicious of a possible illegal or terrorist-related activity, call 9-1-1 for immediate response!



## HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING TO MAKE UTAH SAFER

The Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security announces a new program to develop local hazard mitigation plans statewide.

"Mitigation is what we do before a disaster strikes to prevent it or lessen its impact," Public Safety Commissioner Robert Flowers said. "This new planning effort will help identify areas where we can make our state safer and lessen the financial impact of disasters."

A new federal law makes it necessary for local governments to plan ways to reduce the impacts of disasters in order to be eligible for certain types of federal disaster assistance. Communities must have plans in place by November 2003. This will make the state eligible for

mitigation grants to address hazards identified in the plan.



At the recommendation of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget and Utah League of Cities and Towns, the state will rely on regional planning councils to accomplish this goal. Utah's seven Associations of Governments already work with mayors and county commissioners on planning issues in 256 jurisdictions statewide. Planners at these

associations have received training in mitigation planning and will work closely with local emergency managers and others to complete the plan.

"Regional planning is the best way to accomplish this massive undertaking," said Lt. Col. Scott Behunin, division director. "This unique partnership will connect the overall emergency management community to hazard mitigation."

Planners from the associations will work with counties and cities to identify hazards in their communities and ways to lessen their impacts. Emergency managers and officials from each participating jurisdiction will have final approval on their portion of the regional plan. The regional plans will be compiled into a state plan and forwarded to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for final approval.

Once Utah begins to receive mitigation grants, the state will work with local communities to distribute them in a fair and equitable way as it does with other federal grant programs administered by the Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security. For more info, contact DES.

